

GINGER ROOT

Statewide production of ginger root was estimated at a record-high 18 million pounds for the 1997-98 season, up 49 percent from the previous season.

Favorable weather and a record harvest of 360 acres were major reasons for this past season's record output. The eastern half of the Big Island, where the majority of the State's ginger root crop is annually planted, experienced a beneficial mixture of sunshine and showers that promoted good crop development throughout the growing season. A dry winter then provided nearly ideal conditions for the harvesting of ginger root. Yields improved for many farmers, but disease remained a serious problem for those farmers that did not fumigate or practice good cultural methods.

Farm prices averaged 40 cents per pound during the 1997-98 season, down 47 percent from the previous season and the lowest farm return in 27 seasons. The record output, an increase in growers trying to market their own production, and declining prices on the world market (due in part to the devaluation of foreign currency) were cited as possible reasons for the drop in Hawaiian ginger root prices. The farm value of the 1997-98 harvest was estimated at \$7.2 million, down 11 percent from the previous season, as lower farm prices more than offset the record-high output.

GINGER ROOT: Acreage, yield, production, price, and value, State of Hawaii, 1994-98

Year	Harvested acres	Yield per acre	Production	Farm price	Value of sales
		----- 1,000 pounds -----		Cents per pound	1,000 dollars
1994	150	40.0	6,000	87.0	5,220
1995	135	43.0	5,800	87.0	5,046
1996	200	47.0	9,400	87.0	7,050
1997	275	44.0	12,100	75.0	8,107
1998	360	50.0	18,000	40.0	7,200

GINGER ROOT: U.S. imports, 1994-98

Year	Unground (including fresh)	Ground	Sweet	Candied	Total
					1,000 pounds
1994	31,958	635	1,649	1,014	35,256
1995	33,768	525	1,346	1,026	36,665
1996	30,367	1,220	1,819	1,065	34,471
1997	29,649	854	2,046	1,267	33,816
1998	30,375	569	1,816	1,512	34,272

Source: Foreign Agricultural Trade of the United States, Economic Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture.